

REMARKS

The Restriction Requirement set forth in the Office Action mailed January 21, 2005, is noted. In view of the canceling of claims 23-38, drawn to a structural body, by the present Amendment, it is respectfully submitted that this Restriction Requirement is moot. In any event, Applicants respectfully elect the Group I claims (claims 1-22, drawn to a method of friction stir welding) for prosecution on the merits on the merits in the above-identified application.

Canceling of claims 23-38 from the above-identified application, without prejudice or disclaimer, and in particular without prejudice to the filing of a Divisional application directed to the subject matter thereof; and, subsequent thereto, examination of claims 1-22 on the merits, in due course, are respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes that there are any other points which may be clarified or otherwise disposed of either by telephone discussion or by personal interview, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney at the number indicated below.

To the extent necessary, Applicants petition for an extension of time under 37 CFR 1.136. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to the Antonelli, Terry, Stout & Kraus, LLP Deposit Account No. 01-2135 (Docket No. 503.35255VX2), and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,
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